

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT SUPPLIED BY WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

S/S:MR. EALUM

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O 121921Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL  
MEETING

DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FOLLOWING TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE FOR  
DELIVERY BY SECRETARY SIMON AT TRADE COUNCIL DINNER  
OCTOBER15.PLEASE PASS SECRETARY SIMON.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO THE US-USSR TRADE AND  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL:

BEGIN TEXT - I EXTEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE US-USSR  
TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND  
MEETING OF ITS JOINT BOARD.

WE CAN ALL LOOK BACK WITH SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS MADE  
DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS IN DEVELOPING CONSTRUCTIVE AND  
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY, I PLEDGED CONTINUITY  
IN OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT COURSE, FOR THERE CAN BE NO  
ALTERNATIVE TO A POSITIVE AND PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

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THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY STRIKING. OUR BILATERAL TRADE TURNOVER HAS GROWN FROM LESS THAN 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1970 TO OVER 1.4 BILLION DOLLARS HAN 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1970 TO OVER 1.4 BILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US FIRMS AND SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS ARE PROCEEDING ON A BROAD RANGE OF PROJECTS, INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. US-SOVIET TRADE RELATIONS WERE ONCE CARRIED ON AT ARM'S LENGTH, BUT NOW EACH GOVERNMENT HAS UPGRADED ITS COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE OTHER'S CAPITAL, AND AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE OPENED OFFICES IN MOSCOW.

AS IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS, THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE MODEST IN COMPARISON TO FUTURE PROSPECTS. I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN REALIZE THEM. TO THIS END I HAVE STRESSED TO OUR CONGRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF GRANTING MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

THE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO TRADE, HOWEVER, IS NOT ALL THAT IS REQUIRED. ACTUAL SALES TRANSACTIONS WILL REQUIRE THE POSITIVE DECISIONS OF BUSINESS FIRMS. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT I PARTICULARLY WELCOME THE WORK OF THE US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF US FIRMS WITH THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

THE COUNCIL DESERVES SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PROGRESS IT HAS MADE DURING ITS SHORT LIFE. I AM CERTAIN THAT IT WILL MAKE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE, FRUITFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.

END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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